

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

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|                     |   |                            |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Tawanda Richardson, | : | Civil Action No.: _____    |
|                     | : |                            |
| Plaintiff,          | : |                            |
| v.                  | : |                            |
|                     | : |                            |
| Aaron's, Inc.,      | : | <b>COMPLAINT</b>           |
|                     | : | <b>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</b> |
| Defendant.          | : |                            |
|                     | : |                            |
|                     | : |                            |

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For this Complaint, Plaintiff, Tawanda Richardson, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

**JURISDICTION**

1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.* (the "TCPA").

2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, in that Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

**PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff, Tawanda Richardson ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Greenville, Mississippi, and is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

4. Defendant Aaron's, Inc. ("Aaron's"), is a business entity located in Atlanta, Georgia, and is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

**ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

5. In or around April 2015, Aaron's began calling Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, 662-XXX-3797, using an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS").

6. When she answered calls from Aaron's, Plaintiff heard silence before she was disconnected.

7. The foregoing is indicative of a predictive dialer, an ATDS under the TCPA.

8. Plaintiff never provided her cellular telephone number to Aaron's and never provided her consent to receive automated calls from Aaron's.

9. Plaintiff was annoyed, harassed and inconvenienced by Defendant's continued calls.

**COUNT I**  
**VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA –**  
**47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.**

10. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

11. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant called Plaintiff's cellular telephone number using an ATDS or predictive dialer.

12. In expanding on the prohibitions of the TCPA, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) defines a predictive dialer as “a dialing system that automatically dials consumers’ telephone numbers in a manner that “predicts” the time when a consumer will answer the phone and a [representative] will be available to take the call...” *2003 TCPA Order*, 18 FCC 36 Rcd 14022. The FCC explains that if a representative is not “free to take a call that has been placed by a predictive dialer, the consumer answers the phone only to hear ‘dead air’ or a dial tone, causing frustration.” *Id.* In addition, the TCPA places prohibitions on companies that “abandon” calls by setting “the predictive dialers to ring for a very short period of time before disconnecting the call; in such cases, the predictive dialer does not record the call as having been abandoned.” *Id.*

13. Defendant’s telephone system(s) have some earmarks of a predictive dialer. When Plaintiff answered calls from Defendant, she heard silence.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant’s predictive dialers have the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator.

15. Defendant knew it did not have consent to call Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number. As such, each call placed to Plaintiff was made in knowing

and/or willful violation of the TCPA, and subject to treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

16. The telephone number called by Defendant was assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs charges pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

17. The calls from Defendant to Plaintiff were not placed for “emergency purposes” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).

18. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages for each call made in negligent violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

19. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of treble damages in an amount up to \$1,500.00 for each call made in knowing and/or willful violation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant:

1. Statutory damages of \$500.00 for each violation determined to be negligent pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
2. Treble damages for each violation determined to be willful and/or knowing pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C); and

3. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

**TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS**

Dated: July 1, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Sergei Lemberg, Esq.

Attorney Bar No.: 598666

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